

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 FEBRUARY 1985

Egypt-Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres met with Egyptian presidential envoy Usamah al-Baz in Jerusalem on 26 February, according to Jerusalem radio. While official sources refused to confirm that the Egyptian envoy is really Usamah al-Baz, they said an announcement on the talks will be made on 27 February, the radio noted. Meanwhile, amidst official "optimism" over Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative, Jerusalem television reported that the inner cabinet will meet on 28 February for an "initial debate."

In a related development, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf expressed "astonishment" over President Mubarak's statements, saying that they "ignore" the PLO's role in any possible negotiations, Radio Monte Carlo announced.

Israel

The state budget proposal includes financing for two new settlements in Judaea and Samaria, according to *HATZOFE*. The government had decided on the establishment of six new settlements but there are no funds for four of them, the paper noted.

Lebanon

Israel will continue its "heavy handed" policy in Lebanon as a result of which 37 "terrorists" have been killed or wounded, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. He also criticized UNIFIL for obstructing IDF operations against Shi'ite terrorism, describing the French troops as "the biggest bastards," according to Jerusalem television. Meanwhile, the Israelis have imposed overnight curfews in all villages south of the Al-Litani River, Jerusalem radio noted, and they have banned riding motorcycles and driving cars without passengers. As for Israel's Shi'ite opponents, the "Al-Sadr suicide brigade" informed *AL-SAFIR* that it intends to launch seven suicide operations against U.S. and Israeli institutions worldwide if the Israelis continue their "genocide" operations in southern Lebanon, according to TANJUG.

In Damascus, the Syrian foreign minister condemned Israel's "brutal actions" in Lebanon during a meeting with the ambassadors of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, Damascus television reported. A Lebanese official in Beirut likewise summoned the ambassadors of the same countries to the Foreign Ministry to urge their support for Lebanon's complaint

against Israel lodged with the Security Council, Beirut radio noted. In a related report, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed that the Soviet ambassador had confirmed the USSR's willingness to supply Lebanon with "all sorts of defenses."

Commenting on the results of his recent visit to Syria, Phalange Party Leader Elie Karamah welcomed "the change in relationship and the re-establishment of cordial and useful relations with Damascus," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Contacts will continue between the two sides in order to "rectify" the picture of the Lebanese situation received by Syrian officials, he added, and the Phalangists are confident that the recent deterioration of the security situation in the Al-Kharrub region will not go beyond "certain limits" because of Syria's "reassuring" stand.

Iran-Iraq War

Kuwaiti Tanker Incident — During talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Behazad Nabavi "formally expressed regret" over the 18 February rocket attack on a Kuwaiti container ship in the Gulf which resulted in the death of a Japanese seaman, KYODO reported. While Nabavi did not confirm that the attack was made by an Iranian plane, he pledged that Iran "will ensure" safe navigation in the Gulf, the agency added.

POW Issue — Responding to Iran's announcement about releasing disabled POW's, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Baghdad radio said Iraq is ready to receive any prisoners Iran releases to Turkish authorities. Iran's UN representative announced that Iran will boycott a UN Security Council meeting requested by Iraq to discuss the UN observers POW report, according to Voice of the Masses radio.

Pakistan

Elections — According to provisional results from the 25 February National Assembly elections "several big names" were defeated and a "substantial number" of young legislators were elected, Karachi radio reported, in an "impressive" voter turnout. Among those defeated were the ministers for defense, labor, and culture, according to AFP.

DRA Protest — The government rejected a DRA protest that 400 persons crossed the border from Pakistan and attacked Barikowt on 23 February, Karachi radio announced.

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BAKHTAR Comments on Pakistani Armed Aggression

*LD270037 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT
26 Feb 85*

[Political commentary by BAKHTAR Information Agency]

[Text] The military regime of Pakistan, misinterpreting the patience of the revolutionary DRA, has not only continued the ever-increasing undeclared imperialist war against our country, but has recently intensified irresponsible and direct armed aggression against our revolutionary country.

Yesterday's protest by the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the armed aggression by 400 men of the Pakistani military forces, accompanied by the counterrevolutionary bands inside the territory of our country in the Barikowt area, is the best manifestation of the daily increasing adventures by the Islamabad regime.

This is not the first time that the Pakistani militarists in collusion and collaboration with the murderous counter-revolutionary bands have encroached upon our country, but the Pakistani militarist forces stationed in Afghanistan's neighboring countries have, bandit-like, embarked upon varieties of armed provocation against the sacred territory of our homeland.

The Pakistani units' aggressions on 11 October in Barikowt region; Pakistan's armed attack on 16, 17 and 18 October in Barikowt and Bangash regions; Pakistan's armed aggression in Zazi on 17 October; and aggressions on 1, 2 and 3 December on the Barikowt region, Konar province, Zazi, Paktia Province; Pakistan's armed provocations from 24 to 29 December in Barikowt region; the attack by a 250-man Pakistani militia on 28 December on the Bangash village and frontier post; mass artillery firing by the Pakistani forces in Barikowt on 6 and 7 January; the attack by the Pakistani militia against the Cham-kani frontier garrison and Bangash, utilizing reactive [as heard] shells and heavy weapons on 5, 7 and 8 January and finally the attack of 23 January, as a result of which dozens of military men, innocent civilians, children, women and Afghan men were martyred or wounded and which destroyed a large number of houses, are all evidence and undeniable testimonies to the intensification of direct aggression and irresponsible armed interventions of the Pakistani military regime against the DRA.

Notwithstanding repeated protests to the Pakistani authorities by the DRA concerning these persistent aggressions by the military regime and the provocative armed interference of that country in our borders, the Government of Pakistan has not only paid no attention to these protests, which emanate from the observation of good neighborliness and revolutionary broad-mindedness, but is intensifying such armed aggression which carries grave consequences.

As has been repeatedly stated in the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs protests, Pakistan, by committing these dangerous adventures — which in fact brand them as a mindless tool directed by the United States — plays with a fire whose smoke will blind its eyes.

Editorial on Talks To Ease Regional Tension

LD251241 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Kabul, February 24, BAKHTAR: The Government of the DRA has focussed attention to the normalisation of the situation around Afghanistan which has been aggravated as a result of the policy followed by world imperialism headed by the USA, writes *HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E GUR* editorial.

The realistic and constructive proposal of May 14, 1980 and August 24, 1981 set forth by the DRA cover all sides of the situations around Afghanistan. Proposals not only suggest the cessation of imperialist interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan but also help in improving the political atmosphere throughout the world.

Political efforts of the DRA are being devoted to improve its relations with its neighbours and the ensuring of stability in the region. It is on the basis of these efforts and initiatives that the Geneva talks have been continuing through the representative of UN secretary general since June 1982 and some specific progress has been made. But, whenever some ground has been established for the progress of the talks, the enemies of Afghanistan have tried to undermine it.

Enemies of Afghanistan have created obstacles in the talks and have rejected constructive proposals of the DRA which are the only way for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

In order to cover up their aggressive plans and to materialize the U.S. plans for keeping Pakistan as a springboard of aggression and as a political military base of imperialism against Afghanistan, the Soviet Union, India and the countries of the Gulf region, the enemies of the DRA have made political use of the so-called Afghanistan issue.

The postponement of the fourth round of Geneva talks [words indistinct] Government of Pakistan and the adoption of a reluctant position by that country, testify to the fact that the conductors of the undeclared war against the DRA endeavour to keep the (?region) around tense and to fish in the troubled waters.

The solution of the situation around Afghanistan calls for political foresight, goodwill and honest participation in the talks. Pretexes and unnecessary prolongation of the talks run counter to the cause of peace and security of the peoples in the region.

Trade Between USSR, DRA Increased in 1984

*LD270805 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
26 Feb 85*

[Text] The volume of trade between the DRA and the Soviet Union during 1984 increased about one-third in comparison to 1983.

A Soviet spokesman told a TASS correspondent that the trade turnover between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union during 1984 reached R900 million. Close economic relations between the Soviet Union and the DRA manifests the increasing friendship between the peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

While natural gas constitutes a major portion of Soviet imports from Afghanistan, it also imports wool, pelts, cotton, citrus, olives, and raisins. In its turn, the Soviet Union exports machinery, transport vehicles and ferrous products, oils and oil products to Afghanistan.

The source added that economic relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit. The Soviet Union purchases from Afghanistan a great portion of products, including those in the agricultural field produced by joint projects of the two countries, through its foreign trade organizations. A good example of this is the gas pipeline, through which a great quantity of gas was exported to the Soviet Union, and which constitutes 40 percent of the DRA's annual income.

The Soviet organizations also participated in the creation of the Jalalabad agricultural (?complex) whose products are sold in the Soviet Union.

Curfew Withdrawn in Deeg; District Said Normal

*BK261621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
26 Feb 85*

[Text] In Rajasthan, curfew has been withdrawn in Deeg town of Bharatpur District from 1800 [1230 GMT] this evening. An official spokesman said in Jaipur that prohibitory orders under section 144 [prohibiting assembly of five or more persons] will, however, remain in force there.

Bharatpur District was normal and peaceful today. In Bharatpur town shops were open. However, prohibitory orders in the town will continue till tomorrow evening. The BSF [Border Security Force], CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and the state armed police today staged flag marches in both Deeg and Bharatpur. The state government has taken all precautionary measures in view of tomorrow's bundh called by some opposition parties. Instructions have been issued to ensure peace and normalcy.

The chief minister, Mr Heera Lal Dao Pura, has appealed to the people to realize the futility of organizing such a bundh.

The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Srikant Verma, has said that the former Rajasthan chief minister, Mr S.C. Mathur, or the union minister of state for steel, Mr Natwar Singh, cannot be blamed for the death of Mr Man Singh. He was commenting on the charges made by the DMKP [Dalit Mazdoor Krisan Party] and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in this regard. He said the Congress-I was not involved in the incident.

Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr Verma appealed to the opposition parties not to do anything which might further aggravate the situation in Bharatpur.

Mr Verma also criticized the Akali support for sending seven lawyers to Pakistan to defend the hijackers of the Indian Airlines plane facing trial there.

Jaipur Said 'Normal'

*BK270348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
27 Feb 85*

[Text] The Rajasthan government has decided to hand over the investigation of last Thursday's police firing in Deeg to the Central Bureau of Investigation. An independent candidate and member of the legislative assembly, Mr Man Singh, along with two others, was killed in the incident. As already reported, a complaint has been lodged against 40 policemen in this connection. This investigation is in addition to the commission of inquiry by a high court judge to go into the circumstances leading to the death of Mr Man Singh and his associates.

In Rajasthan, life is normal in Jaipur despite a bundh [strike] call given by some opposition parties. Our Jaipur correspondent reports that interstate and city buses, trucks, autorickshaws, and other means of transport are plying as usual.

Police Officials Injured in Indore Violence

*BK270306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
27 Feb 85*

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr Arun Singh, has convened a meeting of student leaders to discuss the reservation issue. The government has issued an appeal to all sections of the people to help maintain peace in view of the ensuing assembly elections.

In Indore, 16 people, including some senior police officials and the additional district magistrate, were injured last night in a clash with a group of students opposing the new reservation policy of the state government. The district magistrate of Indore told our correspondent this morning that the situation is now fully under control.

Madhya Pradesh Educational Centers Closed

*BK270923 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
27 Feb 85*

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to keep all its offices and educational institutions closed for 2 days from tomorrow in view of the statewide bundh [strike] call given by students agitating against the new reservation policy. Giving this information to newsmen in Bhopal today, the chief minister, Mr Arjun Singh, said that election work will, however, continue as usual. He said all those arrested in connection with the antireservation agitation during the last few days have been ordered to be released. The district and police administration have been instructed to exercise the maximum restraint during the bundh tomorrow.

Families Said Returning to Homes From Punjab

*BK260528 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
26 Feb 85*

[Text] A Punjab government spokesman has said that about 3,306 families who came to Punjab following riots in November last have returned to their homes in different parts of the country. He said this was efforts of the state governments who deputed their senior officers to visit Punjab and reassure safety to the affected people.

President Amends National Security Act

*BK261545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
26 Feb 85*

[Text] The president has amended the Security of Pakistan Act, 1952. The ordinance will be called the Security of Pakistan Amended Ordinance, 1985, and will be operative with immediate effect.

Karachi Radio Reports 52.93 Percent Voter Turnout

*BK261614 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
26 Feb 85*

[Excerpts] Provisional results of all constituencies for National Assembly elections have been received. Provisional results of 179 electoral constituencies were not announced until this morning, after results of 21 remaining constituencies had been received.

The Election Commission has announced the results of all Muslim seats of the National Assembly. According to it, 52.93 percent of votes have been cast in these elections. The total number of voters was 32,589,996, out of which 17,250,482 voters exercised their franchise. The ratio of votes cast in these elections is as follows: Federal capital: 60.24 percent; Punjab: 59.59 percent; Sind: 44.05 percent; North-West Frontier Province: 38.81 percent; the Federally Administered Tribal Areas: 75 percent; and Baluchistan: 35.13 percent.

A spokesman of the Election Commission told Radio Pakistan this afternoon that tabulation of poll results for the minorities is continuing and the commission expects to announce these results sometime tomorrow. The spokesman said that it is taking time to tabulate the results for the minorities since the entire country was made a single constituency for them.

'Analysts' View Results

HK261210 Hong Kong AFP in English 1028 GMT 26 Feb 85

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 26 (AFP) — President Mohammad Ziaul Haq apparently both won and lost yesterday's elections, political analysts said today, noting that he had prevailed against calls for a boycott and predictions of widespread fraud, but also that many of his associates had lost — including seven top officials.

The same paradox was apparent in the climate of the election itself. Although voting generally went smoothly, isolated confrontations nevertheless killed seven people and injured 40, and about 50 people were arrested, most of them in protests of the vote in Peshawar and Lahore.

Elsewhere, however, there was little violence. In addition, the boycott call from the 11-party opposition coalition, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, whose members had not been allowed to run, apparently failed.

Unofficial reports indicated a turnout of more than 40 per cent — more than in December, when General Zia was given a

five-year presidential mandate, and more than General Zia himself had hoped for. The predictions of fraud also appeared to have been groundless.

There were isolated reports of mobile courts imposing on-the-spot punishment of irregularities. But more than 180 results have been declared, and no defeated candidate has challenged results or complained of ballot rigging.

But all did not go well for General Zia in the first partyless elections in the country's history, held after eight years of military rule, and involving more than 1,000 people who vied for membership in the new 237-member assembly.

According to latest results, a large number of Zia-sponsored candidates lost out to local notables — including seven of 12 Zia ministers or former ministers.

These who lost were: Defence Minister Ali Ahmad Talpur, Cultural and Sports Minister Arbab Niaz Mohammad, Labour Minister Ghulam Dastgir [Khan], Power and Natural Resources Minister Raja Sikandar Zaman, Minister of State Mahmud Ali, Trade and Commerce Advisor Sheikh Ishrat Ali and Information Minister Raja Zafarul Haq.

Several other major Zia advisors or friends were also defeated, and the five ministers who won election had faced little or no opposition.

The fundamentalist Jami'at Islami party, which backed General Zia and did not join the MRD boycott also lost many of yesterday's polls, although Fakr Imam, who resigned a cabinet post in 1983 was returned with a large majority in Lahore and Karachi.

Opponents of General Zia described the vote as a clear expression of no confidence in his policies. General Zia himself said the result, which in no way compromises his power, was a confirmation of the fair polling and government's "total impartiality." Independent analysts took the showing as a loss for General Zia, and theorized that it may have both as a national protest, and, in some cases, as a reflection of local concerns.

They cited the defeat of Mr. Zaman, who had been running in the northwestern region of Peshawar, largely because farmers there had opposed the government's policy of eradicating opium poppy fields. A local official who had disputed the government move, Gauhar Ayub, apparently profited from the issue.

General Zia, while not directly mentioning the losses, took clear notice of them by dissolving the Cabinet. The move was seen here as a sign that General Zia, who seized power in 1977, intends to adhere to the text of the 1973 Constitution, which states that only elected members of parliament can be chosen to form a Cabinet.

General Zia has promised that the 1973 Constitution, which he suspended after taking office, will be re-introduced with some amendments that will not change its parliamentary character, as a stage toward transferring power to civilians.

The defeat of the Zia followers also raised questions about the future complexion of the assembly itself. Although the member-

ship is widely varied in outlook, and representative of local issues, analysts did not rule possibility that mutual interests would lead to creation of new groups, or even of a new political party. This prospect may also influence General Zia's choice of prime minister, who will be selected before Pakistan's National Day on March 23.

Military Courts Pass Sentences for Election Offenses

*BK261730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
26 Feb 85*

[Text] A summary military court of Lahore has convicted seven persons in two different cases of illegal possession of arms and for stoning and damaging buses yesterday. Each of the accused has been awarded 1 year rigorous imprisonment.

A summary military court of Rawalpindi has awarded 1 year rigorous imprisonment and 15 lashes each to 5 persons for holding unlawful public meeting, taking out procession, and shouting objectionable slogans yesterday.

Further Sentences

*BK270248 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
27 Feb 85*

[Text] A summary military court in Multan has passed sentences of imprisonment, fine, and flogging on four persons on charges of indulging in offensive behavior before a presiding officer and disrupting law and order at a polling station near the city.

Summary mobile military courts also prosecuted and passed sentences on three persons at two places in Hyderabad division during national assembly elections.

Afghan Protest on Border Shooting Rejected

*BK261104 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT
26 Feb 85*

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has rejected a protest made by the Kabul authorities yesterday. It was alleged in a protest that on the 18th of this month, firing from the Pakistan side had taken place on Barikowt in the Konar Province, and on Saturday last [23 February], 400 persons had crossed the border and attacked Barikowt, as a result of which there had been loss of life and property.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and was asked to convey to his authorities to desist from making such fictitious allegations. It was made clear that the frequent repetition of such baseless charges only reflected an attempt by the Kabul authorities to shift the blame for developments within Afghanistan onto Pakistan.

Spokesman Deplores Kabul 'Propaganda' on Talks

*BK271041 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT
27 Feb 85*

[Text] Pakistan has deplored the Kabul regime's bid to distort and derive propaganda advantage from its request for a postponement of the indirect Geneva talks on Afghanistan. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today pointed out that the postponement of the indirect talks had been requested because of Pakistan's preoccupation with the elections scheduled for the 25th and 28th of the current month. He categorically stated that this was the only reason for the postponement, and Pakistan was not influenced by any mythical pressures that the Kabul authorities kept on conjuring up.

The spokesman added that Kabul's attempt to make propaganda capital out of Pakistan's valid reasons for postponement could only vitiate the atmosphere and further complicate the search for a political solution of the Afghanistan problem. Pointing out that the boot was on the other leg, the spokesman recalled that in the past, the Kabul authorities themselves had not only sought postponement but even evaded talks after first having agreed to them. A (?case in) point was the indirect talks scheduled for New York in November 1983, which they first agreed to but eventually failed to attend.

Zia on 'Incident' During Soviet Envoy's Reception

*GF250654 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English
20 Feb 85 p 1*

[Excerpt] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, said in Lahore on Tuesday that normally the ambassador of a country, while speaking on issues concerning the host country, keep in mind the sensitivities involved in them.

He told newsmen that the government was looking into the recent incident which took place at a local hotel during a reception arranged in honour of the Soviet ambassador. Replying to a question, the president said that if a diplomat violated the normal practice, the government could take up the issue. But in this case, the president observed, it was not the ambassador who had called a meeting but it was some local people who had provided him an opportunity to speak on delicate issues concerning Pakistan by inviting him at the reception.

USSR Media, Envoy Spread 'Falsehoods'

GF251353 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 16 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "The Worst Aggressor is the Soviet Union"]

[Excerpts] Knowledgeable sources have expressed regret over the facts that the Soviet mass media are constantly disseminating lies about Pakistan, and that this is not limited to the Soviet media. The Soviet ambassador in Pakistan, Mr Vitaliy Smirnov, is engaged in spreading falsehoods and fabrications against the host country while residing in Islamabad. The so-called pro-Soviet liberals and atheistic elements invite him to receptions in Lahore and Karachi, and he waxes eloquent in his accusations against Pakistan, without regard for diplomatic norms or etiquette. The

latest example of this is his address at a Lahore reception, where he alluded to the situation in Afghanistan (which arose due to the aggressive Soviet expansionist military usurpation against a small independent, nonaligned Muslim country) and exceeded all limits in leveling accusations against Pakistan.

The Soviet Army is using sophisticated, lethal weapons against the unarmed Afghan mujahidin, but the Soviet media and the Soviet ambassador, Mr Smirnov, are trying to convey the impression that there is only a small-scale opposition to the puppet Karmal government, limited to infiltrators from neighboring countries. These allegations are fallacious because the center of the opposition to the Soviets is in the heart of Kabul, the capital city, and the valley of Panjshir near it. Another center is very close to the Soviet border, near Mazar-e Sharif. But the point is that if reality is taken into account then it would not be possible for the Soviet Government to carry on its propaganda against Pakistan.

In his address in Lahore, Mr Smirnov also claimed to be able to deliver Asia from the clutches of aggression. Nothing can be further from the truth.

The present collaboration between the Soviet Union and its ally India can only be called the height of absurdity. Whatever remains of this process of maligning Pakistan and any shortcomings by the Soviet media are completed by the Soviet ambassador sitting in Islamabad, who also adds his accusations, saying that the attitude to the Soviet Embassy in Pakistan is prejudiced and that one obstacle in the path of Soviet-Pakistani friendship is Afghanistan, where Pakistan has initiated an undeclared war against the Soviet Union. Another obstacle is the anti-Soviet propaganda by Pakistan!

USSR Envoy Denies Recall Rumor, Discusses Events

GF270814 Lahore JANG in Urdu 22 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, (JANG correspondent) -- The Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Smirnov, has said that there is no truth to rumors that he has been recalled to the Soviet Union. This was a mere rumor. He has received no communication from his own government regarding his recall.

Mr Smirnov was having an informal telephone conversation with the JANG correspondent when he said that.

When he was asked if he was about to visit Moscow during the coming few weeks Smirnov said that he had no such plans, and added that unfortunately there are elements that do not want to see Soviet-Pakistan relations improve, although the people of Pakistan want friendship with the Soviet Union. Mr Smirnov said that he will vote with both arms raised for such a friendship. He further said that he is doing his best to bring the Soviet Union and Pakistan closer together.

The Soviet ambassador said that the Afghanistan counterrevolutionary group during April 1984 tried to desecrate the Soviet flag at Karachi stadium, but the Pakistan hockey team foiled their attempt. Similarly on 14 February the Afghan element had tried to disrupt a reception in Lahore but the Pakistanis there forced them off the premises.

Unfortunately, Mr Smirnov said, the Pakistan officials, instead of blaming the Afghan group for the disturbance, blamed Smirnov and the organizers of the reception. Mr Smirnov said that as a result he was called to the Foreign Ministry and was informed of the Pakistan Government's views on the affair. Mr Smirnov said that he had informed the Pakistan Foreign Ministry that he was attacked.

When the JANG correspondent reminded Mr Smirnov that he had just said that the Pakistani people had forced the Afghan elements off the premises, which meant that their plans were foiled and that it could hardly be called an attack on his person, Mr Smirnov said he considered rowdiness as an attack on his person.

When the Soviet ambassador was asked if the Pakistan ambassador in Moscow also had the same freedom to make speeches or call such meetings there, the Soviet ambassador replied that the Pakistan ambassador had complete freedom to call meetings. Asked if the Pakistan ambassador in Moscow could also criticize the policies of the host government, as Mr Smirnov has been doing here, Mr Smirnov said that in Lahore he had only spoken about the Soviet position with regard to peace in Asia, about which he had been questioned, and that the Pakistani ambassador could also explain the policies of his or her home government.

Khomeyni Receives Ministers, Martyrs' Families

LD261427 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
26 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Families of martyrs, those lost in action and war prisoners from Marand town, a number of families of war prisoners from Esfahan, and a group of martyrs and those lost in action from Tehran and Shahr-e Rey were received this morning at Jamaran Mosque by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Foreign Minister Velayati, accompanied by his deputy and a number of Foreign Ministry under secretaries, including the Islamic Republic's ambassadors and charges d'affaires to Arab and African countries, was also received by the imam of the ummah this morning.

In a separate meeting, Commerce Minister Ja'fari and Hojjat ol-Eslam Nezamzadeh, the imam's representative in enclavements [owqaf], were also received by the imam of the ummah.

Velayati Views Israeli Withdrawal From Lebanon

LD262219 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 26, IRNA — In a personal reflection upon the recent Zionists' massacre of Lebanese people and renewed clashes in southern Lebanon, the Iranian foreign affairs minister, Dr 'A. Akbar Velayati was quoted by the ministry's public relations office here today as saying that the withdrawal from Sidon by the Zionist troops had scored a triumph for struggling Muslims in Lebanon. He said, however, that in his opinion the Zionist regime would nonetheless go on with its crimes upon the Muslim people.

Velayati said by recent attacks upon Muslim people in Lebanon the Zionist regime had pursued a two-pronged objective, namely to intimidate the masses and boost the morale of its own troops and also pit the various sectors of the masses against one another in order to ensure a continued foothold for itself in that country.

The Iranian foreign minister has also deplored discord between "certain Muslim groups" in Lebanon and has said their differences are induced solely by the Zionists and should be laid aside to ensure their own total integrity in confronting one and the same enemy.

Comments on Recent Clashes

GF270630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT
27 Feb 85

[Text] Mr. Velayati, our foreign minister, speaking on the recent killings by the Israel occupationist regime in south Lebanon and the clashes in Beirut, told our correspondent that the disgraceful escape of the Zionists, which was achieved after months of struggle, sacrifice, and the holy war by the Muslim people of Lebanon, was a great victory.

No other such example can be found in the entire history of Zionism. It is quite clear from the very start that the occupation-

ist Israeli regime will continue its crimes, and that this first phase of its defeat cannot be expected to signal an end to the intrigues of that regime.

The foreign minister, describing the intrigues, added that these appeared in two forms. First the villages are surrounded, houses are violated, and the killing of the Muslim people by the Zionists takes place; these actions are to create fear and intimidation. In fact, they are calculated to help give the defeated soldiers a boost in morale. On the basis of the information we have, the soldiers of the Zionist regime, in the same destructive attacks on the villages, have been acting savagely and in a berserk manner; fearing attacks by the Muslim revolutionaries in Lebanon, they do not dare to stay in one place.

The second intrigue was sowing dissension between the people and the groups. In this regard, unfortunately, we notice that certain clashes have indeed taken place between certain Islamic groups that are in fact the result of the very same Zionist intrigues. These are condemnable and must stop. The Muslims, by putting their faith in the great God and learning from past experience, should remain alert to the dangerous enemy plans in this sensitive area. They should maintain their Islamic unity and continue their relentless struggle until the final destruction of the Israeli regime.

Velayati Meets With Netherlands Official

LD270039 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — The Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the Dutch deputy minister of agriculture, A.D. Bloeg, reviewed prospects of future cooperation between Iran and Holland.

The Dutch official, the first cabinet member of the Dutch Government to visit Iran since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution (in 1979) expressed pleasure over his visit to Iran and called for strengthening of the relations between the two countries.

Dr Velayati told the Dutch minister that the Western powers routinely misrepresent facts about the nations intending to disentangle themselves from the claws of the oppressive powers and disrupt them as a matter of fact whereas the same world powers have never said a single word of criticism against the Zionist regime or the South African Government for their racist practices. He said the Islamic Republic would continue to tread its destined path braving all forms of enmity by her foreign enemies.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on U.S. Duplicity Toward Iran

LD261909 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that Washington and other foreign enemies of the Islamic Revolution have been all too obviously inconsistent in their propaganda war against the Islamic Republic to the point of now lauding Saudi Arabia and Sudan for having a political and social system which they all but openly mocked in recent past. "They are now supporting the

ruling government in Sudan with its invented religion," said the Majlis speaker in reference to Numayri's version of Islam.

Rafsanjani who was talking to a group of Iran's home-coming ambassadors and charge d'affaires to Africa and Arab countries here today said the principal task of the Islamic government and of its ambassadors and Foreign Ministry envoys abroad is to wipe out misconceptions and wrongful attitudes created in the minds of the world people by oppressive governments disvaluing religion and dismissing its potency for mobilizing the masses.

He said in a bid to enervate the Islamic Republic and smear its universal profile, the foreign powers and especially the United States have launched out a multi-propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic, each time accusing the government of vague charges and levelling discredatory allegations against it often contradicting itself in the process.

Rafsanjani said a familiar stratagem by the United States for disreputing the Islamic Republic is to claim that the Islamic government does not observe "human rights" and that it exercises suppressive methods, while in reality it is the United States which does not respect the rights of the human beings in the four corners of the world since it, along with the Soviets has gone so far as to give itself the veto power for going against the will of entire nations of human beings at the United Nations.

Rafsanjani also criticised the Soviet communist government for its oppressive policies and in an oblique censorship of the Soviets said that "they do not have anything to exploit of ideological or cultural value against Islam save intimidation and the Red Army."

The Majlis speaker pointed out that as a routine propaganda technique the enemies of the Islamic Republic periodically publish unfounded allegations against the Islamic government and blow it up out of proportion only to see that their allegations are later disproved by international bodies such as that of the United States. [sentence as received] He noted for example that Western allegations about a bloody riot among inmates in an Iraqi prisoners camp in Gorgan (Northern Iran) recently incriminating the Islamic government had been totally disproved by a U.N. enquiry commission to Iran.

Majlis-Cabinet Joint Session Discusses Budget

LD262209 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — In a joint session of the Majlis and the Cabinet meeting here Monday night, the national budget for 1364 (beginning March 20, 1985) as well as the country's monetary policies were discussed. Also a comparative report on the socio-economic impact of other countries at war was presented. According to the report, the effects of the imposed war on Iran's Islamic society is minimum compared to other countries because of the spiritual beliefs of Iran's Muslim people.

In this meeting, Prime Minister Musavi expressed hope that the government would continue its wise policies and decision-makings with the help of the Majlis deputies.

Economic Ministry Official Explains New Tax Bill

LD241948 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The under secretary of tax revenues at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance gave an interview to our correspondent. He said, "The central motive behind the new bill on direct tax is not to increase tax revenues; rather, in view of the fact that the existing law governing direct tax is incompatible with the needs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is an attempt to design the new bill in such a way as to cover Islamic standards and values. Furthermore, the bill was formulated to embrace the Islamic Republic's economic policies, not just taxes. The bill will also include numerous tax exemptions including incomes earned through exports and incomes from depressed areas."

Commenting on tax figures stipulated in the country's 1364 [year beginning 21 March 1985] budget, he said, "The budget stipulates a revenue amounting to 114 billion toman [1 toman equals 10 rials] from various tax sources. This figure was set on the basis of the current tax law."

Referring to employment taxes — 3 billion tomans in the current budget and about 15 billion tomans in the 1364 budget — he added, "These figures are not based on the new direct tax bill, nor are they based on increasing the coefficient of employment salaries; rather, they are prepared in accordance with collecting taxes that have not been collected so far — the taxes held in reserves."

Alluding to the need to increase observance of justice in collecting taxes, he said, "To achieve this, certain bodies which include representatives of the clergy, have been set up to settle tax disputes to make sure that taxes are collected realistically."

Commenting on lack of coordination between tax rates in the current direct tax law, the under secretary referred to the implementation of the new bill that would help the deprived class of the society, including wage earners. He added, "In the new direct tax bill the issue of identifying the taxpayer and the timely payment of the tax has been stressed. However, there is no doubt that should taxpayers fail to fulfill their legal duty, then they will be deprived of certain services, including extension of commercial cards. [as heard]

Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Hoseyn Namazi referred to the fact that out of 87 billion tomans anticipated taxes in the 1363 budget, 80 billion tomans have already been collected during the first 11 months of the current year. He said that the collected sum equals the anticipated figure.

Agriculture Minister Requests Aid to Farming

LD242214 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 23, IRNA — Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali said the banks could play an important part in the country's economic growth, specially in the agricultural field.

Zali said in a speech at the second day of an Islamic banking seminar here Sunday that Iran had the potential to become a

strong farming country. Currently, he said only 18 million hectares of land from a total of 50 million hectares of suitable land were under cultivation.

Irrigated wheat farming in Iran only yields an average 1.7 tons per hectare and could be increased to 4 tons, while the dry farming yield could be increased to more than one ton per hectare from the present 500 to 600 tons, Zali said.

Zali added that farming conditions should change so that the prices set for farm goods would be in the interests of the farmer.

The general director of the agriculture bank, Milani, also said in a speech that one of the most important aspects of the Islamic banking system was the *qarz al-hassana* (interest-free) accounts which are invested in agriculture.

Culture Minister on U.S. Departure From UNESCO

LD231832 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 23, IRNA — Minister of Culture and Higher Education Iraj Fazel said the United States left the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) because of its (U.S.) own failure to dominate the world body.

The minister said that the United States cannot accept the fact that it did not have veto exclusivity in UNESCO and that the 160 member countries have equal voting rights. Iran's policy regarding UNESCO is highly valued by Third World countries and the executive body of UNESCO, he said. Meanwhile, a scientific commission of the Ministry of Culture also said that the cause of the U.S. withdrawal was its failure to implement its neo-colonialist policies.

Speaking for the commission, Dr. Hakimi said the U.S. has the veto right in the U.N. General Assembly and can bully through its proposals but it has been losing influence at UNESCO for the past several years.

Initially the United States threatened UNESCO with a financial cut-off but international solidarity in support of UNESCO forced it (U.S.) to leave the world body, she added. The stand of the Islamic Republic to strengthen UNESCO is a suitable policy for an independent nation, she added. Third World countries should not allow UNESCO to be polarized and must strengthen its universality and combat U.S. policy of causing friction among Third World countries, she said.

Iranians Accused of Terrorism in Spain on Trial

U.S. Involved in Interrogation

LD261743 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Madrid, Feb. 26, IRNA — The lawyer of four Iranians who were arrested seven months ago in Spain on charges of being involved in terrorist activities, Monday revealed that the U.S. Embassy in Madrid had also been involved in the interrogation of the accused.

The lawyer announced the U.S. involvement at the trial of Jabbar Hoseyni, Hasan Hassani, Mohammad Nasir Rabbini, and Sohrab Dezfali in Madrid Monday.

To justify the matter, a Spanish secret policeman who was summoned as the attorney's witness, said that in order to gain the required information from the accused, a translator was needed. Therefore, he added, since it was decided not to put the information at the disposal of the Iranian Embassy in Spain, and also there was no intention to use a translator opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran, the U.S. Embassy was requested to assist in this respect.

One of the accused, Hasan Hassani, who had gone to Spain to attend an ophthalmological course, said in his defence that since he was a Muslim and his religion was against terrorism, therefore he was opposed to both terrorism and violence.

He added that John F. Adams, an interpreter from the U.S. Embassy, had threatened him several times, adding that this showed that the U.S. Embassy had played a direct role in such an accusation against the four Iranians.

Another accused, Jabbar Hoseyni, who was the head of the centre for the Iranians disabled in the Iraqi-imposed war in Barcelona, told the court the accusations proved that a joint plot by the CIA and Mosad was being hatched against supporters of the Islamic Revolution of Iran to misrepresent them in the international society as terrorists.

Following the arrest of the four Iranians on July 23, 1984, Spanish Foreign Ministry instructed an Iranian diplomat in charge of students' affairs in Madrid Mohammad Ja'far Niknam, to leave that country within 24 hours.

Trial Ends

LD271158 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Madrid, Feb. 27, IRNA — The trial of four Iranian Muslims who were arrested in Spain seven months ago on charges of being involved in terrorist activities, ended here Tuesday and the verdict will be issued within the next 10 days.

The four accused, denouncing terrorism in their last defenses, rejected their accusations and stressed that they had been entrapped by a prearranged plot jointly designed by the CIA and Mosad.

When one of the accused, Jabbar Hoseyni, in his defense revealed U.S. conspiracies hatched against the Islamic Revolution, two Americans who were said to be agents of the U.S. Embassy in Spain, left the court angrily.

Meanwhile, the lawyer for the four Iranians said that three of the accused would probably be acquitted and Jabbar Hoseyni, who is accused of possessing weapons, would be sentenced to two-and-a-half to six years of imprisonment. On Monday, the lawyer revealed that the U.S. Embassy in Madrid had been involved in the interrogation of the four accused Iranians.

Turkish Foreign Minister Supports Iran's Protest*LD262050 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 26 Feb 85*

[Text] Ankara, Feb 26, IRNA — In a meeting with Turkish press representatives here today, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official voiced Iran's resentment over a recent publication of biased material against Iran by the Turkish print media.

Speaking to a group of reporters here today, a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the Islamic Republic had protested against prejudiced reporting of the Turkish media in relation with a recent report of a U.N. enquiry commission.

He said the Iranian Embassy in Ankara had protested to the Turkish Government against their interpretation of the U.N. enquiry commission's report in relation with the status of the prisoners of war in Iraq and Iran.

Commentary Discusses POW Exchange Proposal*GF270544 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Feb 85*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Upon the request of the Iraqi Government, the United Nations Security Council meets today to endorse the recommendations of the UN fact-finding delegation on the state of prisoners of war and on the proposal to exchange prisoners of war between Iraq and the Islamic Republic. This request is significant in propaganda terms as it is aimed at frustrating the denunciation of the Iraqi Government's attitude as stated in the U.N. report. The media received this report with interest because the report implicitly condemned the attitude of the Red Cross Organization on Gorgan camp and because it denounced the harsh treatment of the Iranian prisoners by the Iraqi regime.

The purpose of the Iraqi regime's request to the Security Council to endorse the plan on the two sides exchanging prisoners of war was to hide the contents of the report. The contradiction in Iraq's request for convening the Security Council lies in the fact that this request is confined to the plan of exchanging prisoners of war and does not include the most important part of the report, Iraq's violation of the Geneva convention on the treatment of prisoners of war.

Prior to tackling any problem, the Security Council should implement the international law on this regime in order to put an end to its shameful practices which undermine human dignity. However, responding to the Iraqi demands concerning the exchange of prisoners of war would imply nothing but the involvement of the Security Council in hiding the essence of the problem, that is, the various types of punishment and torture the Iraqi regime uses on its prisoners of war.

Acting from the position of awareness and responsibility, the Islamic Republic of Iran realized the implications of this step and unilaterally decided to free all disabled and wounded Iraqi prisoners of war in order to foil the Iraqi plan and to tell the world that the question of releasing the prisoners is humanitarian and that it does not require UN discussions, especially when these

discussions are meant to take place at the expense of the real issue, which in this case is the inhuman method pursued by a regime used to violating human rights.

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2016*LD261616 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 26 Feb 85*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — At least seven Iraqi soldiers were killed and or wounded across the Arvand River and many more killed and or wounded as they were ambushed by Iran's Muslim combatants in the west and north western battlefronts on Monday, according to Joint Staff Communique Number 2016 published here today.

The military communique said sporadic artillery battles continued in most of the battlefronts on Monday as a result of which the Iraqi troops sustained heavy material damages.

In the southern fronts on Monday the Iranian troops suppressed enemy fire and checked their infiltration and logistic operations, and in the west and north western fronts several enemy bunkers were pounded along with their crews.

'Terrorist' Killed by Own Hand Grenade*LD261154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Feb 85*

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the headquarters central committee of the Islamic Revolution Committee has stated that yesterday Islamic Revolution Committee Guards, while on patrol, became suspicious of two individuals carrying a bag in the square of Ziba town [in Tehran]. The guards then approached the two in order to question them. However, one of the two pulled a hand grenade from his bag, attempting to throw it. But one of the guards, in order to prevent damage and loss of life to the defenseless people, showed utter selflessness and caught the hypocrite from behind. As a result the hand grenade exploded while still held by the terrorist, thus killing him. The explosion also severed the guard's left hand at the wrist. He was then immediately hospitalized. The other terrorist, who was trying to escape with his weapon, was killed by the committee guards.

The report adds that further investigations revealed 2 identity cards, 1 Kalashnikov weapon, 1 fully loaded magazine, 1 empty magazine, 26 rounds of ammunition, 3 hand grenades, 1 Colt air pistol, 2 plastic colts [as heard], 2 [word indistinct] batteries and some documents, and also 3 cyanide tablets.

Clandestine Report*GF261742 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 26 Feb 85*

[Text] According to a report by the Free Voice of Iran correspondent, in an armed clash between the opponents of the regime and the guards which occurred yesterday in the Shahr-e Ziba Square at the end of the Sattar Khan highway, two members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization were killed. The same report

added that one of the armed guards who had been seriously wounded in this clash died on his way to the hospital.

Today the government radio in its broadcast said that there were only two opponents, but according to eyewitnesses and the residents of Shahr-e Ziba, there were more than 20 armed guards and an unspecified number of opposition members in this clash which went on for hours with firing from both sides. According to the eyewitness accounts, government ambulances carried away more than 10 guards who were seriously wounded. The bodies of two Mojahedin were found at the site of the clash.

More Deported Iranians Arrive From Kuwait

GF262000 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Kuwaiti Government resumed its hostile acts against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Over the last few days, the government deported 34 Muslim Iranians who were residing in Kuwait. These citizens arrived in Bushehr via the Persian Gulf and were housed in a camp for returnees.

Commentary Assails Jordanian-PLO Agreement

GF260904 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The superpowers are competing to support the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement. After the U.S. announcement of support for the plan, the other arrogant countries rushed to support the plan despite the vagueness still shrouding the Soviet stance. Israel was the last to express its view on the agreement as it (?linked) its position with the stances of the Soviet Union and the PRC with regard to improving their relations with Israel. All this happened a few days after the agreement was announced, and a few days before announcing the details, at a time when the negotiators' signatures were not yet dry. This implies that those who supported the agreement knew in advance about the agreement and the articles. So they just had to wait for the proclamation of the agreement in order to hastily execute their respective roles toward the map of events in the Middle East. This indicates that the decisive point in the Middle East issue is approaching as February comes to an end — which is the month set by the Reagan administration to settle the dispute on the Palestinian issue.

The Palestinian-Jordanian agreement is the Arab copy of the plan by President Reagan, who gave the Arab sides an opportunity to reach agreement on any agreement that takes its principles from his initiative, which he launched in September 1982. This initiative received controversial reactions from the Arab sides since it carries the U.S. style. The Palestinian-Jordanian agreement came to [word indistinct] to the Arab and the Islamic public opinion because it is an exact image of the U.S. plan. The only major difference between the two is that it was launched in [words indistinct] and it is more generous toward Israel than the initiative of the U.S. president.

The plan did not mention the Zionist settlements that [words indistinct] directed to the U.S. President, and to his initiative that included an article demanding Israel to halt the construction of the Zionist settlements on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. That is why we find that the Zionists (?continue) to support the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement at a time when they still refuse the U.S. initiative. This can be attributed to the fact that they found in this agreement an amended form of the U.S. plan that pleases them and pleases their ambitious goals. Approval by the Zionists, who hold the last card in the Palestinian issue, is all that is left before practical implementation of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement. This is the moment the arrogant capitalists have been waiting a long time for, but this will not be the last moment in the history of a struggling people and revolutionary people — as were the expectations of the plotters against the issue of these people and those who give in to the plot.

This moment will place the Palestinian people before their clear fate, which is either abandonment of all the rights or resorting to a resumption of the revolutionary action and returning to the gun as a final solution to the liberation issue after all other solutions have failed.

Clandestine Comments on Khomeyni's Remarks

GF251846 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Ruhollah Khomeyni, the 86-year-old leader of the Islamic clique ruling Iran today in an address to a group of revolution guards and a number of Hezbollahi personnel of the Army swallowed his past words and insisted that a victory for Islam does not mean occupying another country.

This statement, which observers consider as evidence of weakness and despondence by the leaders of the Islamic Republic, was contradictory to what he has been saying previously — that his aim was to conquer Qods through the way of Karbala'.

On this occasion Khomeyni announced that rule over another country was not in his plans.

The leader of the Islamic Republic, whose agents are all over the world seeking war material, said the big powers have missiles while we have faith. He said that this faith was enough for the victory of Islam.

The aged leader of Jamaran did not mention that recently the Syrian Government had, while receiving cheap oil, and heavy payments, transferred a number of Soviet-built SAM missiles to his government.

During this address, Khomeyni did not mention that many ground-to-air missiles and hundreds of heavily-armed revolution guards were guarding Jamaran, his residence.

Ruhollah Khomeyni did not mention the war at any time in his speech and asked the revolution guards not to be thinking about capturing other countries.

Tudeh Statement on Political Prisoner Treatment
TA222050 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian
 1730 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: In connection with worrisome reports from the Islamic regime's prisons and torture chambers regarding the continuation and escalation of pressure on and torture against the incarcerated Tudeh members with the aim of extracting so-called voluntary confessions for uncommitted crimes and baseless charges, the Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party has issued a statement.

The statement, published in issue 37, dated 14 February 1985, of *NAMEH MARDOM*, the central organ of the Iranian Tudeh Party, says the following: Reports reaching us from Iranian prisons are a cause for concern. The regime, by violating the principles of the constitution and the human rights declaration and standards accepted by progressive societies, and which are against freedom of thought and conscience, has transformed the entire country into a prison, and responds to the slightest voice of opposition and the least protest of workers with illegal measures and methods of terror and repression, such as torture, imprisonment, execution and elimination.

Now the regime is hatching a new criminal plot. The issue is over the continuation of inhuman tortures in order to exert pressure over the incarcerated Tudeh members, so that they would allegedly give their voluntary sanction to the baseless and unfounded charges of the reactionary rulers.

Neither the wives nor the families of the accused are exempt from persecution, imprisonment and torture. The close relatives of the accused are tormented before his own eyes so that he would be forced to submission. Many Tudeh families -- the father, mother, and son -- are kept together in narrow and dark cells. As a result of blindfolding prisoners with special blindfolds for periods between 6 months and one year, the number of those losing their eyesight is increasing. Lack of health and medical care, as well as malnutrition, have caused the outbreak of various respiratory and skin diseases among the prisoners. The number of those killed under torture is increasing unprecedentedly.

The statement then goes on to say: Iranian prisons are filled with political prisoners. The repressive organs are everywhere seeking to hunt the regime's political opponents. A campaign of arrests among workers, students, and intellectuals has been renewed. The incarcerated Tudeh members and other patriots are tormented and humiliated in the most brutal manner in Evin prison and other secret centers of intelligence organs. What for? For the demand of freedom, independence, social justice, and peace. It is the duty of all of us to think about these soldiers who fight for the liberation of the masses, and rush to their aid (as soon as possible).

The statement says: Solidarity with the political prisoners, and struggling for their immediate and unconditional release is the sacred duty of every noble and humanitarian person in Iran and throughout the world. Only through a consistent struggle can one save thousands of fighters on the path of liberation of the deprived masses from certain death. We request all humanitarians in and outside Iran, and all progressive organizations, to

raise their voice of protest against the periodical crimes that are on the verge of being committed in the regime's dungeons.

[Signed] Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party, 12 February 1985.

Execution of Feda'iyān-e Khālq Members Assailed
TA261607 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian
 1730 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The New Crime of the Islamic Caliphs"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The Velayat-e Faqih's inhuman freedom-killing regime does not cease shedding the blood of struggling Iranian children. Not a day passes without the murderers of this bloodsucking regime making some family grief-stricken, or seizing and eliminating the head and members of one or another family.

On Friday the people of Shiraz witnessed a horrible crime by the executioners of the Velayat-e Faqih's regime. In order to delay their own certain death, and create a climate of intimidation among the people, the leaders of the Islamic regime hanged four members of the Feda'iyān-e Khālq in a tragic manner, following the Friday prayer ceremonies, in four different parts of Shiraz.

With the aim of extracting a so-called confession from these persons, executioners of the Islamic regime subjected them to months of the most brutal medieval tortures, to narcotics tests and drugs presented by the CIA, the intelligence service, and Mosad. Finally, they were tried by a kangaroo court, whose location and operation remain open to question; and on the basis of a false verdict by a handful of professional criminals called shari'a judges, they were sentenced to death. The Velayt-e Faqih endorsed these death sentences, and ordered that they be carried out in public on Friday, as in medieval times, following prayers.

The Islamic executioners carried out the order of the Velayat-e Faqih in such a way as to ensure his satisfaction and pleasure. However, the outcome of this horrible crime by the regime was nothing more than the intensification of the people's hatred, indignation, and protest, and the verification that this bloodsucking regime is on the verge of collapse. It is through an extensive struggle within a united popular front, against this antihuman and bloody regime, that one can expedite this development.

In this connection, *NAMEH MARDOM*, central organ of the Iranian Tudeh Party, rightly wrote in its 32d issue: We believe, and the bitter past experience, including the not too distant past, has repeatedly proved that none of the national, progressive, and revolutionary forces is able to confront alone the united front of reaction, imperialism, and the counterrevolution. Such a belief is no more than an illusion. Only a front that can be transformed into the center of unity of the people's movement is able to increase the movement's influence and power through unity of action that is many times greater than that of any single force. Thus, it will be transformed into a real alternative in society.

NAMEH MARDOM, central organ of the Iranian Tudeh Party goes on to say: "Our party has repeatedly pointed out that without organizing the struggle of the masses, no revolutionary action can achieve the desired result. Without the formation of a united front, without the existence of a joint program, and without determining the means for achieving it, one cannot attain a common goal. For this purpose, above all, there is urgent need for unification of the struggle's leadership through the establishment of a single headquarters. However, the joint program will consist of a united mold that will be able to encompass the joint political and social demands of various national democratic classes and social groups."

Yes, the salvation of our homeland from the ominous domination of the tyrannical and tricky Islamic caliphs, and the maintenance of true freedom and independence, as well as the establishment of a national democratic government, are conditional only on the unity and alliance of national, progressive, and revolutionary forces within a united popular front.

In order to achieve this principal goal, namely the establishment of a united front, one can begin by adopting the slogans "Struggle To Save the Lives of Political Prisoners" and "Struggle To End the Destructive War" which are able to unite the broad masses of society. Unity of action in these spheres will be a reliable base for continuation of talks among national, progressive, and revolutionary forces with the aim of establishing a united front with a detailed program.

In the name of ending the massacres by the ruthless Islamic rulers, in the name of saving the country and nation from the

ominous rule of the bloodsucking leadership, and in the name of ending the war and maintaining independence, freedom and social justice in the country, we must struggle sincerely and with all our might for the establishment of a united front.

Clandestine Reports Plan To 'Double' Fuel Prices

*GF261730 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT
26 Feb 85*

[Text] According to nationalist sources from inside the regime's administration, the Islamic Republic is making a desperate effort to compensate in part for its huge budget deficit. It has decided to double the prices for kerosene and gasoil. According to this same report, the exit tax for those wishing to leave the country will be raised to 100,000 rials beginning 21 March.

Foreign Currency Being Sold at Black Market Prices

*GF241702 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT
24 Feb 85*

[Text] The Government of the Islamic Republic has started to sell hard currency at black market prices, following a drop in its currency reserves. Reports received from Tehran indicate that Bank Mellat is continuing to sell U.S. dollars at 620 rials to the dollar directly and officially. Economic experts consider this action of the Islamic Republic as yet another indication that the Tehran regime is financially bankrupt.